

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03530 080808Z

16

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 082931

R 071550Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5759

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 3530

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS TS

SUBJECT: NO BOYCOTT OF UNIVERSITY EXAMS

REF: TUNIS 2860

1. SUMMARY: ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TOOK EXAMS AT UNIVERSITY IN ALL FACULTIES EXCEPT SCIENCE AS SCHEDULED MAY 27-JUNE 5, WITHOUT EVENT AND DESPITE FACT THAT IMPRISONED STUDENTS DID NOT RECEIVE AMNESTY (REFTEL). FACULTY OF LAW INCREASED NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM THREE TO FIVE BUT STILL ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF FACULTY OF LAW EXCLUDED FROM EXAMS BECAUSE OF TOO MANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCES OWING TO STRIKE. THREE FEMALE STUDENTS WERE AMNESTIED BY BOURGUIBA ON JUNE 6. FACULTY OF SCIENCE EXAMS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24 BUT NO PROBLEMS ENVISAGED SINCE STRIKE ABSENCES ARE EXCUSED IN THIS FACULTY. END SUMMARY.

2. EXAMS, WHICH WERE GIVEN THIS YEAR FROM MAY 27 TO JUNE 5 IN ALL FACULTIES EXCEPT SCIENCE, CAME OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. VIRTUALLY ALL STUDENTS IN FACULTY OF LETTERS PERMITTED TO TAKE EXAMS, AND DID SO. PRIOR TO STRIKE, FACULTY OF LAW HAD TAKEN DECISION THAT STRIKE ABSENCES WOULD NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED PER-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 03530 080808Z

MISSIBLE. HOWEVER, THIS RULING WOULD HAVE EXCLUDED

ALMOST ALL STUDENTS FROM EXAMS SO FACULTY INCREASED NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM THREE TO FIVE WHICH IN EFFECT MEANT THAT TWO WEEKS OF THREE WEEK STRIKE DID NOT COUNT AGAINST STUDENTS. (CLASSES ONLY MEET ONCE A WEEK.) DESPITE THE INCREASE IN PERMITTED ABSENCES, APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF LAW FACULTY WERE BARRED FROM EXAMS. EXAMS IN FACULTY OF SCIENCE HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 24 TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO MAKE UP MISSED CLASS WORK. VIRTUALLY ALL REMAINING STUDENTS TOOK EXAMS WITHOUT INCIDENT AND WITHOUT ANY REPORTED ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE BOYCOTT. THUS, DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENT OF HOPE THAT ARRESTED OR CONVICTED STUDENTS WOULD BE GRANTED AMNESTY ON JUNE 1 LIST (REFTEL) REPORTED PLANS TO BOYCOTT EXAMS WERE QUIETLY SHELVED. THERE IS NO REPORT OF ANYTHING BUT NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE OTHER SMALLER, LESS "ACTIVIST" ELEMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY. ON JUNE 6 PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AMNESTIED THREE FEMALE STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN THREE-MONTH SENTENCES IN APRIL TRIAL.

3. COMMENT: COMPLETE ATTENDANCE AT EXAMS BY STUDENTS PERMITTED TO TAKE THEM PROBABLY OWING TWO MAIN FACTORS: ON ONE HAND, ADMINISTRATION OF FACULTY OF LAW WAS FREE TO DETERMINE HOW MANY STUDENTS WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM EXAMS BY ADJUSTING THE LEVEL OF PERMITTED ABSENCES. SINCE ORIGINAL LEVEL OF PERMISSIBLE ABSENCES WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN EXCLUSION OF MAJORITY OF STUDENTS, LEVEL WAS RAISED TO ENABLE MAJORITY TO TAKE EXAMS. ON OTHER HAND, EACH INDIVIDUAL'S INCENTIVE TO BOYCOTT EXAMS IS VERY LOW SINCE EXAMS ALONE DETERMINE WHETHER HE GETS CREDIT FOR WHOLE YEAR'S WORK. THESE TWO FACTORS COMBINED TO ENSURE THAT THOSE PERMITTED TO TAKE EXAMS DID SO. AS ONE STUDENT SAID " THE ONE THIRD EXCLUDED FROM EXAMS HAVE LOST, BECAUSE THEY'RE ONLY A MINORITY." THESE STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE MAKE-UP EXAMS IN THE FALL WITH THOSE WHO FAIL THE FIRST EXAM. HAD A MAJORITY NOT TAKEN EXAMS IN ANY FACULTY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORAL VICTORY FOR THE STUDENT STRIKE LEADERSHIP, WHICH IS WHAT THE AUTHORITIES PROBABLY SET OUT TO PREVENT. REFUSAL OF GOT TO GRANT STUDENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 03530 080808Z

AMNESTY RE-EMPHASIZES SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOT AND BOURGUIBA TOOK STUDENT DISORDERS AND STRIKE THIS YEAR. GOT PROBABLY FELT AMNESTY AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TAKEN AS SIGN OF SOFTENING ATTITUDE. REFUSAL MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED AS SIGNAL TO STUDENTS THAT BOURGUIBA WILL NOT BARGAIN ON LAW AND ORDER MATTERS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE REMAINING STUDENTS GRANTED AMNESTY LATER, PERHAPS ON PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY,

AUGUST 3. AMNESTY OF THREE FEMALE STUDENTS IS INDICATION THIS MAY BE IN WORKS SINCE THEIR SENTENCES WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER BEFORE AUGUST 3.  
OIKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMNESTY, UNIVERSITIES, STUDENTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TUNIS03530  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740147-0513  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740663/aaaacbzf.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** TUNIS 2860  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NO BOYCOTT OF UNIVERSITY EXAMS  
**TAGS:** PINS, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005